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were delivered. The deceased fellows are: Dr. J. A. Allen, American Museum of Natural History, New York City; Charles B. Cory, Field Museum, Chicago, Illinois, and William Palmer, U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C.

The Brewster Memorial Medal was awarded to Robert Ridgway, of the U. S. National Museum, for his work on the "Birds of North and Middle America," vol. 8, which in the judgment of the council was the most meritorious work on American birds published during the last two years. This medal is to be awarded biennially, and this is the first award.

A feature of the annual banquet was the appearance in costume of representatives of Alexander Wilson, John James Audubon, and C. S. Rainesque, pioneer bird lovers who lived in Philadelphia in the early half of the nineteenth century.

The following were elected officers: Dr. Witmer Stone, Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, *president*; Dr. George Bird Grinnell, New York City, and Dr. Jonathan Dwight, New York City, *vice presidents*; Dr. T. S. Palmer, Biological Survey, Washington, D. C., *secretary*; and W. L. McAtee, Biological Survey, *treasurer*.

SUSPENSION OF GOVERNMENT SCIENTIFIC PERIODICALS

Important scientific periodicals of the Department of Agriculture have suspended publication owing to the failure of the Congress to give specific authority for their continuance after December 1, the date set by law for the death of all government periodicals not individually authorized by the Congress.

When the Congress adjourned without giving any committee authority to determine which periodicals should continue to appear, some forty-one publications issued by the government departments suspended

publication, in most cases without any notice.

From a scientific standpoint, of those that are suspended, four Department of Agriculture publications are the most important. *The Experiment Station Record*, with its concisely written abstracts of agricultural literature, knitted together the research activities of the universities and agricultural experiment stations. *The Journal of Agricultural Research* was the medium for making public those researches that as yet would hardly be of general interest to the practical farmer. But in this journal have been announced some of the most important experimental work of the department and affiliated experiment stations. Meteorology in all its phases was the field of the *Monthly Weather Review*, edited from the Weather Bureau. *Public Roads* had a circulation of 4,000 copies a month and carried details and research of the federal aid program to engineers and road builders.

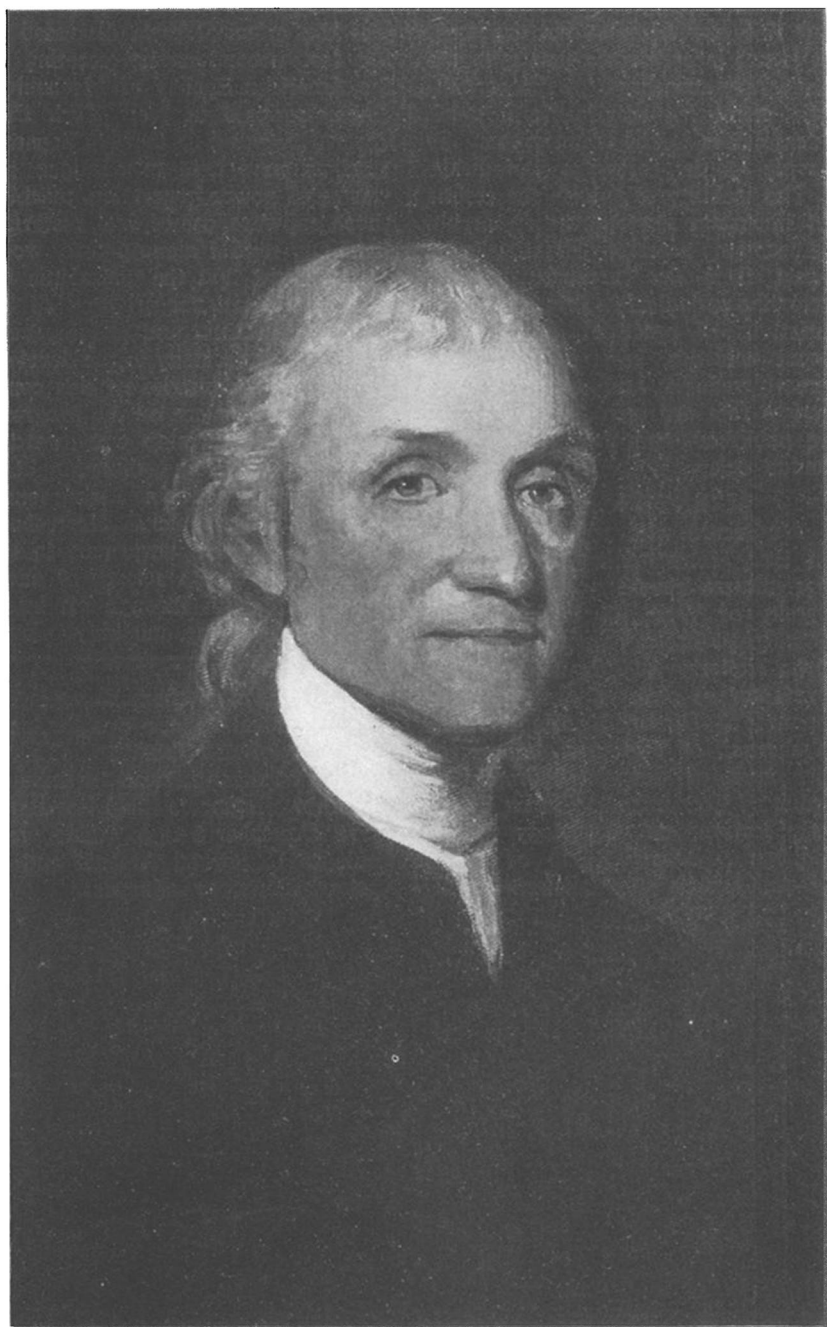
Four other Department of Agriculture periodicals were doing a real service. *The Weekly News Letter*, circulation 126,000, kept the 106,000 collaborators and employees of the department in touch with its activities and served to take current information to those especially interested in agriculture. Weather data were carried promptly to 3,300 by the weekly *National Weather and Crop Bulletin*. The weekly *Market Reporter* was published to give 11,200 bankers, colleges, economists and others prompt data on live stock, grain, produce and other agricultural prices. The *Monthly Crop Reporter*, with an edition of 114,500, was sent to libraries and organizations interested in agricultural estimates, but the bulk of the edition went to collaborators of the department who aid in compiling crop statistics.

By suspending the forty-one government periodicals, it has been estimated that from \$500,000 to



JOSEPH LEIDY

Statue erected in the Medical School of the University of Pennsylvania in honor of the distinguished naturalist and anatomist



JOSEPH PRIESTLEY

Photograph from the copy of the portrait by Gilbert Stuart, recently presented to the United States National Museum by the American Chemical Society

\$1,000,000 will be saved each year, but this may be mistaken economy. It is not inconceivable that even the temporary suspension of the periodicals mentioned may cause a much greater loss to the country than the saving on the forty-one periodicals.

The inability to publish the results of important government researches is becoming a serious situation, even apart from the suspension of the scientific periodicals. Printing appropriations of practically all government scientific bureaus have been greatly reduced, and only the manuscripts that are most important can be published, and these often after undue delay.

SCIENTIFIC ITEMS

WE record with regret the death of Bert Holmes Hite, professor of agricultural chemistry in the University of West Virginia; of William Speirs Bruce, oceanographer and polar explorer; of Etienne Boutroux, professor of philosophy at the Sorbonne; of Dimitri Konstantinovitch Tschernoff of Petrograd, known for his work on the metallography of iron; of Ch. François-Franck, formerly lecturer on physiology at the Collège de France; and of Julius Hann, Austrian meteorologist.

ELIMINATION of industrial waste was the principal topic discussed at the forty-second annual meeting of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers held in New York City from December 5 to 9. Separate sessions were held to consider the wastes of power generation, machine shops, railways, use of fuel, materials handling, textile manufacture, wood manufacture, and the aeronautic industry. A national program of industrial education and training as a fundamental necessity in the development of the industries of this country also had a place on the program. Honorary membership was awarded to Henry R. Towne, directing head of the Yale and Towne Manufacturing Co., and Nathaniel G. Herreshoff, who has played a large part in the development of the science of naval architecture both through his interest in yacht racing and his work on commercial and war vessels.

THE relation of chemical engineering to national defense was the leading topic of the fourteenth annual meeting of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers held in Baltimore, December 6 to 9. Visits were made to Edgewood Arsenal and to various Baltimore industries.